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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

KOBAYASHI, et al.

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METHOD AND SEARCH DEVICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment, which is based on the Article 19 amendments, a copy of which is enclosed herewith:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.